

(b) Amendments to the Claims

A detailed listing of all the claims is provided which replaces all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A structured material comprising in order: (a) an oriented layer containing a noble metal; (b) a layer containing a Group 4A metal; and (c) a MgO ~~(100)~~ (001) layer, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal is dispersed in the shape of islands on said MgO (001) layer.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal has a thickness within a range of from 0.1 to 3.0 nm.

4. (Original) The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said noble metal is Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh, Ag or a combination thereof.

5. (Original) The structured material according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the Group 4A metal is a Ti layer, a Zr layer, a Hf layer or a layer constituted of a combination of these metals.

6.-10. (Cancelled)